



Inaugural General Assembly and Update on Research Ethics



Organized by
Forum for Research Ethics Committees in Sri Lanka

In collaboration with the World Health Organization



Date: 13th March 2026

Venue: The Barnes, Jetwing Colombo Seven

Time: 8.30 am to 4.30 pm

Time	Title	Speaker
8.30 am	Registration	
9.00 am - 9.15 am	National Anthem and Lighting of oil lamp	
9.15 am - 9.35 am	Welcome and the journey of FRECSL	Prof. Chandanie Wanigatunge Chairperson, FRECSL
9.35 am - 9.40 am	Address by President SLMA	Dr. Manilka Sumanatilleke
9.40 am - 9.45 am	Address by the WHO representative for Sri Lanka	Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav
9.45 am - 9.50 am	Address by the Secretary General Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO	Prof. Prabhath Jayasinghe
9.50 am - 10.30 am	Keynote Address: Research Ethics Governance in India	Prof. Roli Mathur Scientist G & Head, ICMR Bioethics Unit, Professor, Faculty of Medical Research, Academy of Scientific & Innovative Research (AcSIR), Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for Strengthening Ethics in Biomedical & Health Research
10.30 am - 10.45 am	Transforming isolated Research Ethics Committees into a modernized and interconnected national research ecosystem	Dr Maju Rani Regional Advisor (Research & Innovation), World Health Organization, SEARO
10.45 am - 11.00 am	Award of FRECSL Honorary Membership and FRECSL REC Recognition Ceremony	
11.00 am - 11.30 am	Tea	
11.30 am - 11.45 am	Changing landscape of research ethics - brief talk about new challenges	Prof. Chandanie Wanigatunge Chairperson, FRECSL
11.45 am - 12.30 pm	Ethics of Research During Unforeseen Emergencies and Collaborative Research	Prof. Ajith de Silva Nagahawatte Member REC, PGIM, University of Colombo.
12.30 pm - 1.15 pm	Ethics of Research in Ayurveda and other USTI systems	Dr. Janaka Pushpakumara Chairperson, REC Bandaranaike Memorial Ayurveda Research Institute
1.15 pm - 1.45 pm	Panel discussion	Prof. Ajith de Silva Nagahawatte, Prof. Kamal Perera, Dr Sudath Samaraweera, Dr Janaka Pushpakumara Moderator - Prof. Chandanie Wanigatunge
1.45 pm - 2.30 pm	Lunch	
2.30 pm - 3.00 pm	Clinical Registries & Databases: Ethics & Practice	Dr Prasad Ranatunga Secretary, REC, Health Informatics Society of Sri Lanka
3.00 pm - 3.30 pm	Data Protection Act and its implications for research	Dr Sunil D.B. Abeyaratne Chairman, Communication Data Protection and Technology Committee of LAWASIA
3.30 pm - 4.00 pm	Panel Discussion	Dr Prasad, Ranatunga, Dr Sunil Abeyaratne Moderator - Prof. Chandanie Wanigatunge
4.00 pm - 4.10 pm	Vote of thanks	Prof. Shamini Prathapan
4.10 pm - 4.30 pm	Tea	Secretary, FRECSL